THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 14. SATURDAY, JUNE 19TH, 1915. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :—

Miss N. L. Smyth,
400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, June 20th, 3 p.m.—Hyde Park—Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Fraser Smith, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
8 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Rev. F. R. Swan and others. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
Monday, June 21st, 8 p.m.—General Members' Meeting.
Tuesday, June 22nd, 3 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Mrs. Walshe, Miss Manicom.
3 p.m.—Bow Women's Hall—Miss Lynch.
8 p.m.—Salmons Lane—Mrs. Davies.
8 p.m. — Poplar Women's Hall — Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. Chair: Mrs. Drake.
Wednesday, June 23rd, 8 p.m.—Ford Road—Miss Feek.
8.30 p.m.—Kempshead Road Hall, Old Kent Rd—Miss M. Thompson. Chair: Rev. H. G. Veazey.
Thursday, June 24th, 8 p.m.—124 Barking Rd—Mrs. Tyson. Chair: Mrs. Parsons.
8 p.m.—175 Dalston Lane—Mrs. Cyon. Chair: Miss Manicom.
8 p.m.—Oakley Place, Old Kent Road—Miss Balchin.
8 p.m.—53 St. Leonard St.—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
Friday, June 25th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Mrs. Bouvier.
Sunday, June 27th, 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Miss Manicom, Miss Mary Phillips, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
8 p.m.—Women's Hall — Mr. Sorensen. Chair: Miss Manicom.
8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Alison Neilans. Chair: Mrs. Drake.

P.S.—Rev. Swan's subject on June 20th, will be "Beware of British Prussianism."

SUFFRAGE CLUBS. Poplar, 20 Railway St., 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays.
Bow, 400 Old Ford Road, Fridays and Mondays 7 to 10. p.m.

To reach Old Ford Road take an Old Ford 'bus (No. 8), which goes via the Marble Arch, Oxford St., the Bank and Liverpool St., or book to Old Ford Station on the North London Railway.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

The season of infantile diarrhœa will soon be upon us, when babies, especially babies of necessitous mothers, who are themselves undernourished, and cannot afford to buy good fresh milk, will be falling dangerously ill. The calls on our four mother and baby centres, for milk, eggs, medicines, and doctoring and nursing care, will become more frequent and more urgent as the summer advances. Will you help by sending us some money for this work?

Will you send us new laid eggs, arrowroot, barley, glaxo or virol?

Will you send us a maternity outfit?

We want:—For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS.

High prices increase the need for our restaurants. At the same time the high prices make it harder and harder for us to pay our bills. Will you help?

OUR FACTORY.

Always buy your toys and shoes from the E.L.F.S., because we pay a living wage. Latest price lists may be had on application to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

CLOTHING STALLS.

Our four clothing stalls, where women can buy useful garments for their families for a few pence, are much appreciated. Our stock of clothing is getting low. Will friends send us some more?

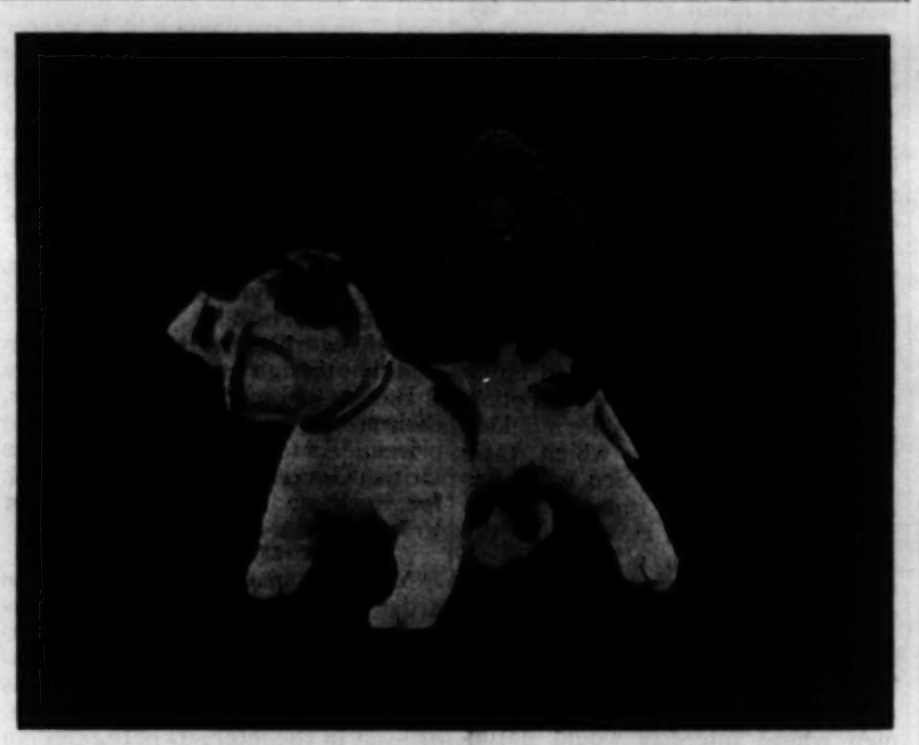
Mothers should apply for our new leaflet on baby feeding and infant care.

INSURANCE FOR WAR RISKS.

The Government is considering the question of a State system of insurance against war risks.

We hope that such a scheme will be established without delay as we hold that if any profit is to be made out of this sort of thing, it should be made by the State, in order that the heavy burden of paying for the War may fall, at least to that extent, more lightly upon the general body of the community.

The *Manchester Guardian* states that Insurance companies, having got people to insure with them at high premiums, reinsure with Lloyds' brokers for very much less, and so, whilst escaping liability, make a big profit. One company secured a premium at 40s. per cent. and reinsured with Lloyds at 7s. 6d.



MADE IN OUR TOY FACTORY.

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT.

The *Daily Chronicle* states that:—"In granting women the right to sit in Parliament, Denmark follows an example set by China, among other countries. Two years ago one of the new provincial Parliaments of China—that of Canton—allotted ten seats to women, who are elected by the votes of their own sex. Two of the successful candidates are schoolmistresses and most of the others are married to wealthy merchants. Since taking their seats the lady legislators have devoted themselves most diligently to their duties. They frequently take an eloquent part in the debates and display considerable aptitude for Parliamentary business.

IRISH M.P., and VOTES FOR WOMEN.

In the House of Commons on Thursday, June 10th, Mr. Ginnell asked the Prime Minister: (1) whether with a view to making available the country's intellectual as well as material resources, and at the same time opening a new, suitable and long-needed sphere of activity for capable women, he has considered the advisability of taking steps to open the two branches of the legal profession to women on duly qualifying: whether he will at an early date take action with this object; and (2) whether, in view of the enactment in Denmark of a new constitutional law giving the parliamentary franchise to women on the same terms as to men, and the greater need for such a law in this country at the present time, he will have the introduction of legislation on this subject, at an early date, considered by the Coalition Government?

Prime Minister: "These are both highly controversial questions which cannot be dealt with at the present time."

Mr. Ginnell: "Will the right hon. gentleman say how many women serving the country in the manner stated in the first question, are now available?"

Prime Minister: "I am afraid I do not know. Such a question would require several days' notice."

Mr. Ginnell asked the Prime Minister whether it is with his sanction the advocacy of peace is being treated as an offence under the Defence of Realm Act; and, seeing that the majority of Englishwomen desire the termination of the present waste of human life, and that they have no votes in the election of members of this House, whether he will consent to receive a deputation from them, and to give an early opportunity for debating the subject in this House?

Prime Minister: "So far as I am aware, the advocacy of peace has not been and cannot be treated as an offence under the Act. I believe that the desire that the War may lead to an honourable and lasting peace is shared by all classes without distinction of sex. I do not, therefore, see any sufficient reason for adopting the concluding suggestion in the question."

Mr. Ginnell: "Will the right hon. gentleman consider the advisability of taking a vote of the women on this subject?"

Prime Minister: "If the hon. Member can suggest a means of doing that, I will consider it."

MUNICIPAL MILK.

Councillor Margaret Ashton of Manchester says: "There should be a municipal milk rate as there is a municipal water rate. Towns should supply milk to babies as they supply water to manufacturers. We ought to see to it that the care of babies should be the first charge on the community, and not the last."

We agree that this is a most excellent idea, and should like to hear more of the practical working details. Our readers may have some suggestions to make.

Five old age pensioners finding that they cannot live on the weekly 5s. have applied for admission to the Lambeth Workhouse.

E.L.F.S.

GENERAL MEMBERS' MEETING

400 Old Ford Road, Bow,

MONDAY, JUNE 21st, at 8 p.m.

To discuss the Board of Trade notice on meat, etc.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20th, 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S HALL

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

SPEAKERS:

Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST,

Rev. F. R. SWAN,

on "Beware of British Prussianism."

Miss FRASER SMITH.

HYDE PARK, SUNDAY,

3 p.m.

Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST,
Miss FRASER SMITH,
Mrs. BOUVIER.

E.L.F.S. MEMBERS'

MONTHLY SOCIAL,

400 Old Ford Road, Bow,

Saturday, June 26th, 8 p.m.

Concert by the

"MERRY MAIDS."

Dancing. Refreshments at Popular Prices.

TICKETS THREEPENCE.

"BUSINESS AS USUAL!"

"We note you wish to deliver to Phœnix a further 2,000 to 2,500 tons of ore out of the Themis. We have no objection whatever to delivering ore to these friends, if it is possible to get payment for same over here during the war, but we cannot allow another ton to go to any German customer unless we get cash for it."

"What we want you to do is to assure our Duisburg house that we shall do everything we can to meet the situation, that we want them to tell our friends Messrs. Krupps and the Rheinische Stahlwerke that we very much appreciate their action in this matter. We quite realise that they are very anxious to secure ore, and if we had been allowed by the laws of this country to send further steamers to Rotterdam with ore for delivery to them we should have been only too glad to do this; but we are entirely prohibited from doing so so long as the war lasts, and we can only hope that the situation may soon change in the direction of peace."

We quote these letters which were dispatched on August 13th, and September 2nd, 1914, by Messrs. William Jacks and Co., of Edinburgh, and were read in evidence in the trial under the Defence of the Realm Act of two partners in the firm, for supplying materials to the Great German armament makers after war broke out.

Who said "strikes?"

The *Times* states that serious food riots have occurred in Budapest. The prices of flour and meat in Hungary are said to be higher than in Berlin and Vienna.

The
Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,
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Vol. II. No. 14.—Sat. June 19th, 1915.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

THE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT OF THE WAR.

At Jarrow-on-Tyne, we asked a middle-aged woman the way to the church. She volunteered to come with us, and in a moment she was telling us about her life. Her husband was at Devonport, working in a Government dockyard. She had one son in the Royal Flying Corps, the other had died a year before. She would like to go out to work to keep herself from thinking, but there was little work for women on Tyneside. It was difficult to get taken on at the Elswick munition factory, as soldiers' wives and daughters were chosen before other women. She had friends who had been told that they might get taken on if they waited a month. Yes, she would like to get work at Elswick, but she was of working stock and realized the struggle of the bread-winner. Her husband was earning good wages and she must not snatch the means of livelihood from other women, she must leave the work to those who were critically dependent on what they could earn.

But she regretted her inaction, she wanted to help the men who were forced to work so hard, and for such long hours, and were growing so very tired.

"What is this that they say about 'bad time keeping'"? we asked her. "The poor men," she said. "They can't go on for ever without a break! I see them almost falling as they go home from work."

We heard of the exhaustion of the munition workers from others too on Tyne-side, and thus was shown to us the double-sided, cruel system by which some human beings faint from overwork, and others starve from lack of it.

SPENDING £3,000,000 A DAY.

On June 16th, the Government asked from Parliament another war credit of £250,000,000. The war credits now amount to £862,000,000, and the expenses are growing by almost £3,000,000 a day.

The revenue we secure from war taxes would not even suffice to pay the interest on these vast sums. Mr. McKenna who is now Chancellor of the Exchequer, told the House that we must meet the war expenses by "our own domestic economies" and no doubt economies will have to be practised—indeed any working-class mother will be able to give the members of the Government a useful insight into the economies that already she is obliged perforce to practice. Mr. Runciman laid greatest emphasis on the need for conserving the nation's financial resources; but his admission that "there is not energy enough in the country" to provide millions of men to fight, millions of men and women to make munitions, and in addition enough others still to keep up the necessary production of peace goods, is an admission that it is not the husbanding of mere capital that should make us anxious, but of the precious human beings on whom the nation must ever and ultimately depend.

NO COMPULSORY SERVICE.

Mr. Asquith stated that the Government does not intend to introduce *compulsory* national service. We are glad of this and hope the decision will be adhered to, for we believe in freedom, we know that the experience of freedom enobles human beings, developing and enlarging the sphere of their capacities, and stimulating their powers of mind and heart; whilst coercion stultifies intelligence and unless it is rebelled against crushes and atrophies the higher qualities. Compulsory service in industry, as at present organised, would mean no less than the slavery of the workers to certain private individuals, who have undertaken, at considerable profit to themselves, to get certain work done for the Government. The Party strife is supposed to be laid aside, but the merchants and manufacturers are ever forwarding their own interests, and from the point of view of the nation as a whole it would be madness to hand over the majority of the population to them, and to say: "do with these workers as you will." In saying this, we do not wish to imply that employers are worse than other people, but their actions are moulded by the system under which their work is carried on. See what has been happening in regard to food and coal prices, as revealed by the debate which took place on these matters in the House of Commons on June 10th.

COAL.

Take first the question of coal. The Departmental Committee, mainly composed, remember, of men whose interests would naturally be on the side of the employers and the wealthier section of the community, has reported that the war expenses of coal owners and merchants would entitle then to an increased profit of 3s. a ton, but that they have taken an increased profit of 9s. to 11s. a ton.

The Board of Trade was late in appointing the committee to enquire into the serious question of coal prices, but though the committee has so reported, the Government has not forced the prices down. Mr. Runciman admits that the prices have been unjustifiable, and says that after many conferences with the Board of Trade, merchants have agreed to limit their profits.—Yet, though this is the summer time, the prices remain extortionately high. Mr. Runciman does not tell us what profits have been agreed to as legitimate. Yet this, we think, the country is entitled to know. Indeed we go further, the people who have to pay the price are entitled to a voice in deciding what shall be considered legitimate profits in war time, and we again urge that an advisory committee be appointed, to consist of one-third owners or manufacturers and merchants, one-third consumers (mainly working women housekeepers), and one-third workers in the trades concerned.

Having negotiated with the merchants, Mr. Runciman says that he passed to the mine owners. He says that they assert that the increase in miners' wages has cost them 1s. 6d. a ton, but he frankly says that he considers this "a gross exaggeration" and that the cost is nearer pence than shillings. Mr. Goldstone who, as a Labour representative, probably knows all about it, stated that in Lancashire the miners' bonus has accounted for 9d. a ton.

PIT PROPS.

Mr. Runciman appeared to think that the increased cost of pit props had probably most to do with the high price of coal, and he explained how the Board of Trade had served these mining companies that are exploiting our population, by sending commissions to America, Newfoundland and Canada, and by enlisting the help of the French Government to secure wood from Bordeaux. The French Government actually withdrew men from the front and sent them to fell pit props for the English mines.

All this has of course been very expensive—Government officials cannot be sent travelling all over the world for nothing. Somebody asked whether we had not still some trees that could be made into props in this country. Mr. Runciman admitted that this was so, but British railway companies charge more for carriage than mine owners will pay. It costs more to move timber from one part of this country to another than to bring it by ship across the world.

But in spite of the wages, and the pit props, and all the trouble that the Board of Trade has taken on their behalf, the mine owners *still* charge prices for coal which, as Mr. Runciman says, are "far in excess of what the expense justifies." He still hopes that he will soon be able to announce that "they have come a little nearer to our expectations." When will the Government cease to waste time and money by beating about the bush? When will it take the short and simple course of firmly fixing reasonable prices of coal, or, better still, of nationalising the coal mines during the War?

And, meanwhile, miners who strike, or take a day's unauthorised holiday, are sent to prison!

With regard to wheat, Mr. Runciman said that though such firms as Spillers & Bakers had made excessive profits, their profits would fall with the fall in prices. As to meat, he said that the British Government had bought both for itself and the Government of France.

THE MEAT TRUST.

Mr. Runciman indicated that in order to help this country, the Governments of Australia and New Zealand had exercised an extensive control over the meat supply, such as Mr. Asquith has refused to exercise, at least in the interests of the civilian population here. The Board of Trade had bought as best it could from "The Meat Trust," which consists of American and British companies that "all act together." Mr. Runciman refused to tell how much he had paid to "The Meat Trust."

FREIGHT.

With regard to carriage by sea, the charges for which have largely raised the price of food, some people asserted a while ago, that if the Government would only put into use the interned German vessels, freight charges would come down.

The Board of Trade made use of these vessels for carrying coal, but it charged the prevailing market rate for freight, so that its competition can have made no very substantial difference. In making arrangements for buying the frozen meat that the Government had bought from the Argentine, Mr. Runciman prided himself on striking a very hard bargain; and he called Mr. Houston, M.P. to witness that he had done so, expressing the hope that he might be exculpated for any moral guilt, because he had acted, not for himself, but in the public interest. Mr. Houston replied that Mr. Runciman had indeed driven a "very hard bargain," but called on Mr. Runciman to testify that he had not protested, but had been "prepared to accept any rate from the Government."

Mr. Runciman agreed that this was so and that he had not been obliged to use the "requisitioning power" which he "held in reserve."

RUNCIMAN'S BARGAIN?

After all this, it came out, through Mr. Houston's asking why the Nelson Line had not been requisitioned, that the requisition rates secured by Mr. Runciman's "hard bargain" were actually higher than the contract prices firms arrange for themselves.

Is it a proper thing that Members of Parliament should trade with the Government?

IS THIS SHARING THE BURDENS?

There was a great deal of talk about all classes.

Some Members of Parliament tried to prove that working people are benefiting by the war, because some of them have secured a war bonus. But it was pointed out that the average war bonus is something less than 3s. a week, whilst, on the rosiest estimate, the purchasing power of the sovereign has fallen to 14s.

There was a lot of talk too about all classes bearing a share of the sacrifices that war entails, but when we consider such statements by comfortable people who ride in motors, we think of the women machining khaki shirts at 2s. 8d. a dozen. And there rises before our eyes the sight of a queue of poorly dressed soldiers' wives humbly waiting their turn to enter a Newcastle post office for their allowances.

Every day we must try to realise more clearly our common brotherhood and sisterhood.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

ENEMIES TO SUFFRAGE.

Rose Livingston of New York is called the "Angel of Chinatown," because of her rescue work amongst unfortunate girls.

The *Woman's Journal* of America states that Miss Livingston was recently introduced to a Boston *white slave* trader, by a detective, who pretended that she was engaged in the same traffic in another State. In this assumed character Miss Livingston said: "I don't know that I shall care about staying in Massachussets, as I understand that you are going to have women suffrage after next November, and things might not be very pleasant for me."

The white slave trader flared up, he said: "Going to have woman suffrage? Well I guess not, we've raised a big sum of money to defeat it and it isn't going to pass"!

Miss Livingston told the *Woman's Journal* that "every unfortunate girl who is being exploited by the traders in vice is being assessed an extra sum from her earnings to be used in fighting the equal suffrage amendment."

WHAT IS ESSENTIAL?

In a leading article on "The Essential Need" the *Spectator* asks how we are to get more shell, and answers the question in the following words:—"We can only get it by abolishing root and branch during the war all those trade union restrictions that limit, or tend to limit, production."

As a corollary it makes this stipulation:—"The employers must during the period of the war, and while the trade union restrictions are in abeyance, consent to forgo all profit beyond the profits made by them before the inauguration of the new policy."

The *Spectator* does not seem to realise that it is here asking the workers to forego liberties and safeguards that they possessed before the war; whilst suggesting that the employer shall lose nothing only not gain *more* than he had before the war.

But the *Spectator* goes further than the Government which for the last ten months has allowed certain employers to go on piling up extra war profits.

LEGALISED SWEATING.

The Trade Board has fixed minimum weekly rates, based on a 52 hour week, for workers in the sugar, confectionery and food preserving trades.

For women the rates range from 6s. a week for girls under 15 years, to 13s. for adult women of 18 years and upwards. For men the rates are from 6s. a week for boys under 15, to 26s. for men of 22 years and upwards.

The minimum wage for women is therefore just half that fixed for men. It is a scandal that such a sweated rate as 13s. a week should be fixed by a Board professedly set up to abolish sweating!

78,000 women have registered for War service. Only 1,816 have found work.

WOMEN ON TRAMS & TRAINS.

In Newcastle, the conductors on many trams are women in khaki uniforms. They are paid the same wages as the men whom they have replaced. Several other cities have also agreed to establish the rule of equal pay for men and women engaged on the trams. This is as it should be, and a determined stand on the part of the men and women concerned will eventually secure it in all cases.

Reports in regard to the introduction of women on railways are less satisfactory. Mr. A. Bellamy, president of the National Union of Railwaymen, states that the women in many cases are receiving much less pay than the men, in spite of the fact that the wages have been fixed by arbitration. Mr. Bellamy adds that some companies, are employing superannuated men workers at a lower wage than before. In one case an old passenger guard was given 5s. a week less for doing precisely the same work as he used to do.

There is no patriotism in allowing the standard of living for the community to be reduced—in fact, quite the reverse!

At the beginning of June there was a forty-eight hour strike of 10,000 Leicester hosiery operatives. The matter was then submitted to arbitration, and it is decided that the men shall have a bonus of "one penny in each shilling on wages earned in any one week, up to £2; no bonus to be paid on wages earned above £2 in any one week."

The women, on the other hand, are to have a bonus of "one penny in the shilling on wages earned in any one week, up to the maximum of £1; no bonus to be paid on wages above £1."

The arbiters, on behalf of both employers and employed, were all men.

When the men find that they cannot get back their work, because women are doing it at a lower wage, they will regret, perhaps, that their representatives did not stand out for equality between the sexes.

WOMEN AND THE GROCERS.

At the Annual Delegate Meeting of the National Association of Grocers' Assistants, held recently, a discussion took place which revealed a surprisingly selfish and callous attitude on the part of some of the delegates towards their woman fellow assistants in the grocery trade.

The president, in the course of his address, said that information had reached the organisation showing that women assistants were being "shamefully exploited," and that their wages were as low as 8s. a week. But as "in no case had one of their women members—and they had but few—taken the place of a man, and no complaint as to wages had been received from women, the remuneration of the male assistant was their chief concern."

Mr. Stephens, of the West End branch, moved a resolution protesting against the low wages paid to women by certain firms, and instructing the executive to draw the attention of the public to this matter.

Mr. Cripps, of the Brixton branch, moved an amendment urging upon employers the desirability of distributing among the men on the staff the differences in the salaries paid to women. This extraordinary proposal was carried.

In the discussion, Mr. Reading, of the Highbury branch, said that an effort must be made to organise the women grocers' assistants, but the President said "that the Association should take no active part in this."

Having carried a resolution that the difference between the women's wages and their own should be shared by the men employed, the meeting rejected as too drastic, a motion by the Plymouth branch demanding that women should be paid the same wages as the men whose places they had filled.

A resolution was moved urging all "*male employees*" to become members of the National Association of Grocer's Assistants, which exists to watch and safeguard *their* interests *exclusively*, and is *uninfluenced by a women's section*.

Mr. Reading protested that the Association was taking up a vindictive attitude, but that the duty of the members lay with the men. Their "*duty*" to the women was "to see that they were not introduced at wages which would unfairly affect male members." If they admitted women to the Association they would not be able to turn them out after the war.

Poor short-sighted grocers' assistants. They refuse to admit the women, who will soon be flocking into their trade, to their Trade Union, they refuse to agree that women shall receive equal wages with themselves. They will certainly suffer for their selfish folly, by a fall in their own wages, unless the women prove more public-spirited than they.

Government refuses Equal Pay.

The Civil Service Commissioners recently issued a circular to Government departments setting forth the conditions under which women clerks are to be employed by the Government in place of men who go to the war. The rate of pay fixed for women temporary assistants is much lower than that of men temporary assistants, women getting 21s. to 25s. for what men got 31s. 6d. Typists and routine clerks are to be paid 18s. to 20s.

We print the following letter from the *Daily Chronicle*:—

Sir,—I have read with great interest all the different opinions for and against conscription, especially with regard to munition making. My interest is stimulated by personal feeling. Some time ago my husband, who is a Burgh official, felt it his duty to do something in this war. He was able to arrange for his work being carried on in his absence. He proved to be medically unfit for active service. Thereupon he wrote to the War Office offering his services in any capacity that might be of use or might free someone for fighting. He was practically told (after a long delay) that his services were not required there as they had plenty of men for all the posts that required filling. When the outcry arose about munitions he answered two advertisements requiring men at once. To neither of these has he had any reply. So here is an able-bodied, well-educated man willing to do what he can or learn whatever may be of use and no one will have him. Yet the cry is—conscription for industrial purposes.

A MERE WOMAN.

Some people have been exciting themselves about the fact that the Cabinet Ministers are pooling their salaries. We consider this a very minor matter and of no importance except to the individuals concerned. Therefore we prefer to leave the discussion of it to the people who are not struggling, as we are, to secure vital and urgent reforms.

HUNGER STRIKING!

Mr. Sheehy-Skeffington, the editor of the Irish Women's Suffrage paper, has been sentenced in Dublin, under the Defence of the Realm Act, to six months' imprisonment with hard labour, and an additional term of six months to follow, unless he is bound over in £50. His offence is making speeches against conscription. We understand that the views expressed by him are not more extreme than those published with impunity by many persons in this country. Mr. Skeffington, who states that he will hunger strike, is one of a number of others who have been sentenced for their speeches in Ireland. A number of Irish newspapers have been suppressed. We believe that the rigorous suppression of unwelcome views, which is being practiced in Ireland, will not stimulate either the loyally or the contentment of the Irish people.

We learn that Mr. Skeffington has won his way out. Will he be re-arrested under the Cat and Mouse Act?

EAST LONDON FOOD PRICES.

	Pre-War. s	d	Now. s	d
Cheese, per lb.... ...	0	7½	1	0
Sugar, „	0	1¾	0	3½
Dripping, „	0	4	0	7
Suet, „	0	8	0	10
Butter, „	1	0	1	5
Margarine, „	0	6	0	8½
Bread, per qtn.... ...	0	5	0	8½
Flour, „	0	4½	0	9
Treacle, per lb.... ...	0	2	0	5
Cakes, „	0	4	0	5
Biscuits, „	0	4	0	5
Eggs ... ... 16 for a	1	0		
8 for a			1	0
Bacon, per lb.	1	0	1	2
Fish, no change, except bloaters, per doz.	0	9	1	0
Cond'ns'd milk, per tin	0	3	0	6
Jam, per lb.	0	3	0	4
Spiced or tinned meat, per lb.	0	8	1	0
Tinned herrings, „	0	4½	0	5½
Beef, stew, „	0	4	0	7
„ flank, „	0	6½	0	8
„ leg, „	0	7	0	9
Mutton, leg, „	0	8½	0	10½
„ scrap, „	0	5	0	7½

Food Prices given in Parliament.

	June, 1914.	June, 1915.
Tea	9d. per lb.	1/- per lb.
Flour	24/6 to 27/- per sack	48/- to 53/- per sack
Butter	115/- per cwt.	145/- per cwt.
„ Irish	110/- „	135/- „
Canadian cheese	60/- „	98/- „
Danish or Irish bacon	70/- „	95/- „
Beef, Scotch	7d. per lb.	11d. per lb.
„ Argentine.	5½d. „	9½d. „
Sugar	16/- per cwt.	28/- per cwt.

EXPLOITING COLONIAL PATRIOTISM.

We take the following letter from the *Times*.

Sir.—We have recently received the following from a farmer and shipper in New Zealand:—

Your Government ask ours if they will agree to the British Government commandeering all the meat exported from the Dominion, and to this we readily agreed, being only too pleased to help in our cause. Your Government then fixed a price and said, We shall pay you at that rate; again we agreed (we had no option), and, although the meat is worth now on *your market very much more than we received for it*, we recognize the fact that every one should make some sacrifice to help in these strenuous times. *But, on the other hand, what are your farmers at home doing to help feed the Army?* A large proportion of our meat is taken off the market, and consequently *your producers are not only getting our trade, but they are benefitting also by the greatly enhanced value of meat on the market and, having very little opposition, are practically masters of the situation.* We don't mind doing our share if others do theirs.

Yours faithfully,
H. S. FITTER.
Central Markets, London.

EGYPTIAN WHEAT.

The *Times* of June 16th, stated in its financial columns that the Egyptian Government has authorised "one of the largest Alexandria shipping firms to make a small trial shipment of the new season's wheat to Liverpool and another to London with a view of testing the English markets. Should the prices obtained be sufficiently attractive to encourage an export business, regular supplies of Egyptian wheat may be looked for, once the restrictions on its export be removed."

We can hardly believe this statement to be correct. It seems altogether too grotesque that the Egyptian Government should be so blindly mad as to thus exploit the needs of this country, which is its source; For this statement means that if the prices offered by individual buyers are not "sufficiently attractive," the people of this country will be left, so far as Egypt is concerned, to go without bread.

It is stated that the acreage under wheat in Canada is nearly 15 per cent. greater than last year.

Food Question in Parliament.

In the House of Commons, on June 9th, many Scotch Members protested against the Government's proposal to cut down the Vote for the Scottish Board of Agriculture. Money has to be found from somewhere to pay for the War, but it seems strange that it should be at the expense of agricultural development if our food supply is in danger.

Mr. Hogge protested that "we are depleting the large herds of cattle in Scotland, because of the desire on the part of men who have reared cattle to take advantage of the high prices which now obtain in the meat market." He read a quotation from the report of a veterinary surgeon from one of the largest Scottish cities (Mr. Hogge would not say which) who said:—

"The number of cows found after killing to be previously in calf were recorded during the week ending January 29th, 1915. In the six days no less than 129 cows were found to be pregnant. In some cases the calves were removed alive after the dams had been slaughtered, and it was not an uncommon occurrence for the cows to give birth on the surface bench of the slaughter-house to a healthy calf."

This horrible report must make everyone wish to become a vegetarian. Mr. Hogge went on to point out that the wholesale slaughtering of cows would endanger the supply of milk which is so essential to young children.

The Government is still "considering" whether it can prevent the slaughter of immature animals and those carrying young.

The Government of Victoria has advised the Government of this country that it is prohibiting the export of meat, owing to the shortage. That means that one source is cut off from us.

In the House of Commons, on June 8th, Mr. Will Thorne stated that the Admiralty had bought 3,150 tons of corned beef at an average price of 8¼d. per lb., whereas the *Australian Pastoral Review* had given the price of canned meat on the London Meat Market per dozen 6 lb. tins, as 35s. (5¾d. per lb.) for July, 45s. (6¼d. per lb.), at the end of August, 46s. to 41s. (6¾d. to 6¼d. per lb.) for September. The *Pastoral Review* further reported that in November and December buying on Government account was not so active, "but available stocks were reduced to a minimum, and held at such extreme rates, that the home trade declined to make purchases."

Dr. Macnamara, Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty, admitted that the figures given by Mr. Thorne were correct, but stated that the prices charged to the Government were not unreasonable. It is, however, clear that prices have been raised, because it is believed that the Government will pay anything to get the meat. The Governments of the Overseas Dominions and the British Government should co-operate in keeping the prices down.

On June 9th, in the House of Commons, Mr. W. C. Anderson asked, whether, in view of the rise in food and fuel prices a circular had been issued to Boards of Guardians recommending an increase in out-relief?

Mr. Walter Long, the new President of the Local Government Board, said that this had not been done, but that "*Guardians are well aware that in the view of the Board it is their duty, in fixing the amount of out-relief, to have regard to the cost of living in the locality.*"

Boards of Guardians should note this and act upon it. Mr. Long added: "I shall, however, carefully watch the matter." We hope he will! And what about the Old Age Pensioners?

The Newcastle Board of Guardians have invited other Boards of Guardians throughout the country to join them in a resolution calling on the Government to exercise its powers in the limitation of food profits and the housing of the poor. The Lambeth Board and others have supported the resolution.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

SOUTH-EAST LONDON E.L.F.S.

Hon. Secretary: Miss BALCHIN, 39 Radnor Street, Peckham.

Will members please note that Miss M. Thompson is coming to speak for us next Wednesday, and turn up in good numbers? Also please note that we have changed our open-air pitch from Avondale Square to Oakley Place. Will all who possibly can please support these meetings? We had a good crowd last week. Mr. Booth's address last Wednesday was exceedingly interesting, and he now suggests a country outing for the members of the branch and friends, and will place his bungalow at our disposal for tea, etc. Will members please come along and talk this over?

BOW.

400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW.

Good meeting in Victoria Park last Sunday. Interesting speeches by Mrs. Davies, Miss Fraser Smith and Mrs. Walker at the Women's Hall. Will members do their utmost to advertise next Sunday's meeting? —to come themselves and to bring friends. The subject chosen by the Rev. F. R. Swan is of particular interest to working men and women. Miss S. Pankhurst will also speak, so let us see to it that the Hall is filled to its utmost capacity. Thanks are due to paper sellers and collectors, and to the new helpers at the stall, who did a good trade on Saturday evening. Who will sell papers and collect at the Marble Arch on Sundays, 3—5 p.m., when E.L.F.S. and Forward Cymric Meetings are held on alternate Sundays?

***Dreadnought* sales, week ending June 12th—731. Stall 63, Miss O'Brien 175, Mrs. O'Connell 96, Mrs. Moor 88, Mrs. Crabb 86, Mrs. Farrall 80, Mrs. Payne 33, Mrs. Thomas 20.**

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.
Organiser: MRS. DRAKE.

Members are asked to make a special effort to work up Tuesday evening meetings. Men as well as women welcome. Last Tuesday a number of our members attended the U.S. Meeting at the Kingsway Hall, paper selling, etc.: Miss H. Watts collected 8s. 1½d. towards babies' milk, Miss Norrington sold 20 papers, Mrs. Bird 20, Miss E. Lagsding 12. Thanks very much to them all. Miss Di Benningfield is thanked for subscription of 2s. 6d. towards piano. There has been a good distribution of *Dreadnoughts* this week, and Miss Lizzie Bertram and Miss Phoebe Lagsding are thanked for paper selling at the Dock Gates on Sunday morning.

Miss S. Pankhurst came on Friday afternoon to speak. This is the first time we have had the pleasure of a visit to this hall, in the afternoon. A good meeting and three new members. Our Cost-Price Restaurant is getting busier and expenses are heavy. We should welcome some voluntary assistance in the dinner hour, waiting at table. Who will help between 12 and 2 p.m.?

Photos of the May Day Demonstration, to be seen in office, 3d. each. Call in and give your orders. Social tickets on sale here for Members' Monthly Social, to be held on Saturday, June 26th, at 400 Old Ford Road, 3d. each.

***Dreadnoughts* sold week ending June 12th —210, distributed 1,000. Mrs. Schlette 50. Mrs. Bird collected 14s. 3½d. at Greens'. Mrs. Knight, S.-D., 4d., Mrs. Smith 6d. subscription towards milk. Miss Atkinson gave two baby shirts.**

HACKNEY.

Offices: 175 DALSTON LANE
(Facing Hackney Downs Station).
Papers can be obtained at this address at any time.

Mrs. Bouvier spoke to a very large crowd at Lesbia Road on Monday evening. We were very pleased to have Mrs. Ives to speak for us last Thursday evening.

Members who live at Clapton please note that Mr. Davidson, newsagent, Clarence Road, now stocks the *Dreadnought*.

Mrs. Fix took six papers last week to sell to her friends. Will every member please do the same? If every member would get six new subscribers our sales would go up rapidly. Mrs. Page sold 24 papers last week, and has taken 36 papers to sell this week.

We should like to see more Hackney members in Victoria Park on Sunday afternoon, also at 400 Old Ford Road on Sunday at 8 p.m. Don't forget the General Members' Meeting at 400 Old Ford Road, on June 21st, at 8 p.m., and Members' General Social, June 26th (tickets 3d.).

Papers sold, 56. Distributed, 75.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

NORTH LONDON M.P.U.

Hon. Sec.: MR. H. G. EVERETT.
c/o Mr. Innes, 31 Balmes Road, Southgate Road.

A very successful meeting was held in Finsbury Park on Sunday. Mr. Franklin, speaker.

Rev. Wills and Mr. Lynch spoke at good meeting, June 6th.

We intend to hold a big public meeting in Highbury Hall, and a big demonstration in Finsbury Park, in July.

Meeting as usual in Finsbury Park next Sunday, 3 p.m.

Who will help to collect for us? We need money badly, as the expense of carrying on our work is very great and we get no help from any public funds.

Presents of fruit for our Cost-Price Restaurants will be most gratefully received at—

400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

ANTI COMING ROUND.

The *Standard*, which for long has dabbled in Suffrage, but usually on the anti side, recently published a long and cautious article, from which the following is an extract:—

"The mothers of the race will relatively be more important so far as the transmission of national physique is concerned than the fathers. . . . . It is evident that race culture will be a great problem demanding attention after the war, and in this the voice of woman must not pass unheeded. It would in these circumstances be better to listen to the voice of woman satisfied with her position in the community, and conscious that she has her rights as well as her responsibilities.

"Another consideration is that under the exigencies of the war, women are now doing men's work in all directions. In the factories, in agriculture, in the office, we see women not supplanting, but replacing men. . . . . I am one who believes that this change will not be wholly temporary. Many of these new occupations thrown open to women so unexpectedly will remain open to them, in my opinion, for ever. . . . . According to all human calculation there will be a large female surplus population after the war, and that a considerable proportion of it will perforce have to gain its own subsistence in some form of occupation goes without saying. . . . . The economic position of women will be so changed as a result of the war that the revision of her status in the community seems well nigh inevitable. . . . .

"I write as an anti-suffragist on the old lines—and on the old lines with its opinions, presumptions, and its total disregard of simple human truths, I would have remained an anti-suffragist to the end. . . A new world is coming, and in that the women's case will be saner, more appealing, less antagonising, above all womanly. To that every man will listen with deference and respect, and, I believe, with an open mind."

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—Mr. Blanche 1.0.0, Mrs. Lancaster 10.0, Poplar collection 2.10, Hackney collection 2.0½, Bow Sunday meeting collection 1.3½, Mrs. Knight (Self-Denial Fund) 0.4.

DREADNOUGHT FUND.—Miss L. Peacock 5.0.

FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Anon. 10.0.0, A. J. Hill, Esq. 5.0.0, Mrs. G. Munro 5.0.0, Mrs. Douglas-Hamilton 3.0.0, Miss H. Fryer 2.2.0, Miss Winckworth 2.2.0, J. Gliksten, Esq. (monthly) 2.0.0, Miss Wyman 2.0.0, Misses Crane 2.0.0, Misses Collier (monthly) 2.0.0, Miss P. G. Milman 2.0.0, Mrs. N. K. Martyn 1.0.0, A.S.E. Members, tool-room, London Small Arms 1.15.2½, A.S.E. Members, tool-room, London Small Arms 1.10.3½, Girls of Invercargill, New Zealand, per Miss Newcomb 1.0.0, Miss I. V. Yeoman (10.0 weekly) 1.0.0, Miss E. A. Jones 1.0.0, Mrs. K. E. Rymer 1.0.0, Miss A. Chester 12.0, Miss C. B. Patterson 11.7, Girls of Hobart, Tasmania, per Miss Newcomb, 10.0, Mrs. Merrick (from two friends) 10.0, Mrs. Gamman 10.0, Miss J. T. Dreury (monthly) 10.0, Mrs. Garner 10.0, Mrs. Hensler 10.0, Miss A. Stewart-Miller 10.0, Miss E. M. Graydon 10.0, Miss M. O. Kimball 10.0, Miss E. Rainey 10.0, Miss H. Raisin (monthly) 10.0, Anon., Stroud Green (weekly) 10.0, Mrs. Drakoules 10.0, Mrs. Richmond (5.0 weekly) 10.0, Mrs. M. Ashton 8.0, Mrs. Hawkins 7.6, Miss E. Taylor 6.6, Mrs. Fiddian 5.8, Miss E. Morgan (monthly) 5.0, Mrs. Morrison 5.0, Miss G. Hopkins (monthly) 5.0, Rev. I. H. Paull 5.0, Miss S. Hymans Tiel 5.0, Nurse Hooton 5.0, Mrs. C. Hartland (monthly) 5.0, Lady Coomaraswamy 5.0, Miss E. M. Beeby 5.0, Mrs. and Miss Ashby (monthly) 4.0, Mrs. Spencer 3.6, Miss J. Johnson 3.0, Mrs. Granger's Club (monthly) 2.6, Mr. and Mrs. Thombino Kouveld 2.0, Miss I. Jones (weekly) 2.0, Miss M. A. Stockwell 1.6, Mrs. Barnes 1.6, Miss V. Willis 1.6, C.E.L. 1.1, Mrs. Smith 0.6, For Auntie Maude's poor children three farthings.

COLLECTIONS.—Mrs. Crabb, from L.S.A. employees, 11.9½, Anon. 10.2½, Ruby Crabb, from L.S.A. employees, 4.9½, Mrs. McCheyne 3.3½, Miss Watts 8.1½, Mrs. Bird 14.3½.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Miss E. Canning, Baby Lovers' Club, Miss E. Dale-Glossop, Mrs. Couldrey, Miss Burgess, Mrs. H. Bond, Mrs. F. Griffin, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Rogers, Miss Clara Sidney-Woolf, Miss M. A. Beard, Mr. and Mrs. Judson (New Zealand), Mrs. E. J. Warrich, Mrs. F. K. Lynch, Miss Couldrey.

HOUSE.—Mr. Irving.

Mrs. Springle, 22 Elsmere Road, Bow, E. Plain cooking, needlework, housework, children's dressmaking, has a hand-machine at home. Wants moderately short hours, about 9—6, would work longer occasionally, but has to attend to own home.

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.

COAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Departmental Committee on Coal, reports that 7·1 per cent of the miners have enlisted and as a result the present output of coal decreased by 13½ per cent. during seven months of war. It is estimated that unless the output can be accelerated, the decrease for the year will be 36,000,000 tons, but 18,000,000 tons which is usually exported will remain in this country.

The committee estimates there is only 4·8 per cent. of what it calls "avoidable absenteeism" amongst the miners, so that compulsory service would scarcely affect the problem.

The committee suggests a joint conference between employers and workmen to consider whether the Eight Hours Act shall be suspended. The committee probably realises that the output may probably not be increased by extending the hours of hard physical labour which a miner has to face.

The committee does not recommend that women should be employed or that the age at which boys may be employed should be reduced. It regards harmonious working between the employers and employed as essential. The recent refusal of war bonuses, and the imprisonment of strikers will hardly make for this.

In the House of Commons, on June 9th, Mr. Anderson stated that the Glasgow Corporation had been obliged to pay increases of from 60 to 70 per cent. for their new coal contract. He asked that the Government should obtain information as to the prices charged to other municipal departments, and that, in view of the position created by high coal prices, for vital municipal and industrial enterprises, the recommendations of the Departmental Committee on coal prices would be enforced.

Mr. Runciman replied that "effect has already been given to the majority of the recommendations."

It may be that a number of minor recommendations have been given effect to, but the most essential principle of the Coal Committee's Report, that there must be national control of the coal supply during the War, has been ignored. Without this the mere tinkering with small details is ineffective, as the fact cited by Mr. Anderson clearly proves.

COAL v. TURF.

On June 9th, Mr. Ginnell appealed to the Government to exercise its statutory power of buying Irish bog lands and developing them for the manufacture of improved peat fuel in view of a possible shortage of coa in Ireland.

Mr. Birrell replied that the Government had not decided to do anything itself but had drawn the attention of various private individuals to the matter.

Mr. Ginnell also called the attention of the President of the Board of Trade to the fact that the coal shortage in Ireland had necessitated the reduction of the train service and asked that the Board should "overrule the coal interest which prevents the development of Irish bogs and require Irish railway companies, as public carriers, to make arrangements this season for obtaining from bogs along their lines at least sufficient fuel for their own purposes for twelve months, manufactured as peat fuel is manufactured in Sweden and other countries."

Mr. Runciman said "the question seems to be one for the consideration of the Irish railway companies concerned."

We emphatically disagree with this view. If the proposal is good and practical and likely to be of service to the country in husbanding its resources, we think that the Government should take the responsibility of seeing that it is carried out. If the proposal is unpractical of course that is another matter.

Woman, now living in Bermondsey, has had experience of farm work and milking.—Apply, Box 100, The WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

The Bradford Council has raised the price of Gas by 5d. per 1,000 cubic feet, and has passed a resolution calling for State control of the collieries.

The *Manchester Guardian* states that there is reason to believe that the Government has taken over the business of the Gas Light and Coke Company. It is said that there will be no change in the method of working and that the control will resemble that which the Government exercises over the railways. We ought to have more information about these things.

POSTAL SERVANTS WAGES.

In the House of Commons, on June 9th, Mr. King drew attention to the fact that the question of the increase in wages, for which postal servants have asked to meet the increased cost of living, is still unsettled. He stated that many postal servants who at the beginning of the War had assented to deductions from their wages to be made for the Prince of Wales's fund, had now given notice that they can not afford to submit to these deductions, and asked whether their wishes would be respected.

Mr. Herbert Samuel, Postmaster-General, replied that contributions to the Prince of Wales's fund were entirely voluntary, but Mr. King stated that postal servants who had wished to withdraw from contributing under peculiar circumstances had been very severely reprimanded by their superior officers.

EMILY WILDING DAVISON.

On Tuesday, June 8th, a Memorial Service for Emily Wilding Davison, who gave her life for women, on Derby Day, 1913, was held at St. George's, Bloomsbury.

On Saturday, June 12th, a Requiem Mass for Emily Wilding Davison and all men and Women who have given their lives for their country's honour and freedom, was celebrated at St. Phillip's Church, Newcastle, by the Rev. T. Wallace of St. Mary's Church, Jarrow. An address was given by Rev. H. H. Hand of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Newcastle. Mr. Aldridge was at the organ, and the cantors were the Rev. R. H. A. Bullock of St. Peter's Church, Walsend, and the Rev. H. A. Hand.

On Sunday, Emily Wilding Davison's comrades placed a wreath upon her grave in Morpeth Churchyard, and a meeting was held in Morpeth Market Place, at which the speakers were Mrs. Mary Leigh, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and Mrs. Blanche of Newcastle.

The following, who loved and revered our Comrade and Soldier, Emily Wilding Davison, sent contributions towards the expenses of representatives who went to Morpeth for the commemoration ceremony:—

Mrs. Ayrton 10.0, Mrs. Acworth 10.0. Miss S. Bennett 5.0, Mrs. and Miss Cobb 10.0, Mrs. Penn Gaskell 1.1.0, Miss B. Harraden 5.0, Miss G. Harraden 3.0, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence 10.0, Mrs. Mansell-Moullin 10.0, Miss Moorhead 5.0, Mrs. Morriss 2.0, Miss Parker 5.0, Miss G. Roberts 2.0, The Misses Thomson 5.0, Miss Wainwright 2.0.0, Miss Woolan 5.0, Mrs. Lamartine Yates 10.0.—Total £7 18s. 0d.

In reply to her appeal for the work of the E.L.F.S. in the Press, Dr. Tchaykovsky has received a letter of which the following is an extract:—

"I want to tell you how much I have been moved by your letters to realise, not only the urgency of the cause for which you plead, but the splendid devotion of you and your fellow workers in the East End. I beg to enclose a cheque as a contribution to your work.

"If anything were needed to convince me of the justice of the women's cause, it would be the manner in which its advocates are dedicating themselves to the task of saving the children.

"I wish you God-speed in your noble crusade."

A postcard for Miss E. Plum has come to this address from a soldier at the front, who says he is alright. We hope that this may bring the news to its owner.

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